

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9 and 15 are amended herein. Claims in the instant case are Claims 1-25.

103 Rejection

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rumbaugh (US Patent No. 6,275,144 B1) in view of Weiss et.al. (US Patent No. 6,496,103 B1). Applicants have reviewed the cited references and respectfully assert that the present invention as recited in Claims 1-25 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Rumbaugh in view of Weiss, and that the present claimed invention is therefore patentable over Rumbaugh in view of Weiss.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to independent Claim 1 that recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to (emphasis added):

“...A computer network, comprising:
... one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices located at one or more of said work centers, said powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices communicatively coupled with said work center devices via cabling, and wherein said one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices is configured to receive an add-on device selected from the group consisting of intelligent remote testing devices and security devices;”

Independent Claims 9 and 15 recite similar limitations. Claims 2-8 that depend from independent Claim 1, Claims 10-14 that depend from independent Claim 9

and Claims 16-25 that depend from independent Claim 15 provide further recitations of the features of the present invention.

Rumbaugh in combination with Weiss does not show or suggest the claimed limitation of “one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices is configured to receive an add-on device selected from the group consisting of intelligent remote testing devices and security devices; ...” Although Rumbaugh teaches a network server that can be connected at any point on a power-line network, and network servers that are multiplexed in cabling and single cabling, nowhere does Rumbaugh disclose a powered, intelligent multiplexing device that is configured to receive an add-on device for remote testing or for security of the multiplexing device. Neither does Weiss, who discloses a network telephony system connecting a telephonic device to a server over a packet-switched network such as an IP telephony system via a switching device (a multiplexing device), disclose an add-on device for allowing remote testing or for securing the intelligent multiplexing device. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that these references fail to teach or suggest embodiments recited in Claims 1, 9 and 15.

Further, Applicant finds no teaching, suggestion, or motivation expressed in Rumbaugh, Weiss, or in any of the cited references, individually or in any

combination, to combine or modify their teachings in such a way as to suggest “one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices is configured to receive an add-on device selected from the group consisting of intelligent remote testing devices and security devices; ...”, as recited in Claims 1, 9 and 15 of the present invention.

Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the references cited to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found in either the references themselves or knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. Here, none of the cited references, individually or in any combination, teaches, suggests, or ascribes a motivation to combine their references to produce the embodiments of the present invention recited in Claims 1, 9 and 15. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the references cited do not suggest or render obvious the embodiments of the present invention recited in Claims 1, 9 and 15.

CONCLUSION

Based on the arguments presented above, it is respectfully asserted that Claims 1-25, as amended herein, overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, allowance of these Claims is respectfully solicited.

Applicants further point out that no contested Claims remain in the present Application.

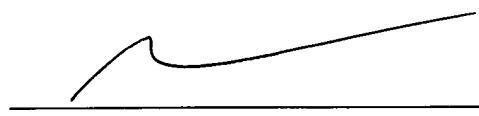
Applicants have reviewed the following reference which was cited but not relied upon and do not find this reference to show or suggest the present claimed invention: US/6,522,626, US 6,686,832, and US 2002/0181044.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP

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John P. Wagner
Reg. No. 35,398

Two North Market Street
Third Floor
San Jose, California 95113
(408) 938-9060